

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

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National Weather Summary Volume 90, No. 45 November 2 - 8, 2003

For additional information, call (202) 720-2397.

Highlights: Heavy precipitation, mostly rain, preceded a cold outbreak across the **Midwest**, slowing corn and final soybean harvesting. The heaviest rain, locally in excess of 4 inches, fell from **Iowa to Lower Michigan**. Meanwhile, **Southern** fieldwork--including cotton and soybean harvesting--advanced with few delays until the mid- to late-week arrival of locally heavy showers. Weekly temperatures ranged from 6 to 14 degrees F above normal in the **Southeast**. Summer crop harvesting approached completion in the **Delta** but lagged in part due to persistent wetness in the **southern Atlantic region**. On the **Plains**, significant precipitation was confined to east-central and southeastern portions of the region. As a result, the majority of the winter wheat crop on the **central and southern Plains** continued to suffer from a lack of moisture for autumn establishment. Meanwhile on the **northern High Plains**, where temperatures ranged from 16 to 26 degrees F below normal, a shallow to moderate snow cover provided the poorly established wheat crop with beneficial moisture and insulation. Farther west, cold, dry conditions slowed or halted **Northwestern** winter wheat development, while beneficial snowfall blanketed portions of the **Intermountain West**. Toward week's end, storminess began to overspread the **Pacific Coast**, providing welcomed precipitation across **northern and central California** and **southwestern Oregon**.

Early in the week, heavy rain fell in parts of the **Midwest** in advance of a strong cold front. On November 2, daily-record rainfall totals included 1.41 inches in **Madison, WI**, and 2.69 inches in **Grand Rapids, MI**. Madison also noted record totals the following 2 days, when totals reached 1.96 and 1.61 inches. Other daily records on November 3 included 3.55 inches in **Des Moines, IA**, 3.00 inches in **Waterloo, IA**, and 2.05 inches in **Lincoln, NE**. Farther north and west, November 3 snowfall totaled 5.8 inches in **Huron, SD**, and 4.5 inches in **Tooele, UT**. The next day, another round of snow overspread the **north-central U.S.**, where daily-record totals for November 4 included 9.0 inches in **International Falls, MN**, and 5.2 inches in **Grand Forks, ND**. By midweek, heavy precipitation departed the **Corn Belt** but overspread the **East**, where daily records for November 5 were established in locations such as **Orlando, FL** (1.66 inches), and **Virginia's Dulles Airport** (1.60 inches). Cool, dry weather covered the majority of the Nation by week's end, although locally heavy precipitation moved inland across the **central Pacific Coast**. **Santa Rosa, CA**, netted 1.37 inches on November 8, boosting its month-to-date rainfall to 2.44 inches.

During the week, more than 150 records were broken across the **South** and **East**. In addition, monthly records were set or tied in locations such as **Jackson, KY** (82 degrees F on November 4), **Birmingham, AL** (85 degrees F on November 2), and **Ft. Smith, AR** (86 degrees F on November 1 and 3). **Baltimore, MD**, noted a high of 81 degrees F on November 1 and maxima of 80 degrees F from November 3-5, doubling its 1982 record of 2 November days with temperatures of 80 degrees F or higher. In **Atlantic City, NJ**, the maximum of 81 degrees F on November 3 was its highest reading in more than 6 weeks, since the mercury reached 82 degrees F on September 20. By week's end, however, warmth lingered only across **Florida**, where daily-record highs for November 8 were tied in locations such as **Gainesville** (86 degrees F) and **Ft. Myers** (89 degrees F).

At the same time, at least 250 daily-record lows were set or tied in the **North** and **West**. **Cut Bank, MT**, posted a trio of daily-record lows (-12, -17, and -8 degrees F) from November 4-6, then notched another record low (-10

degrees F) on November 8. Elsewhere in **Montana**, daily-record lows on November 5 included -22 degrees F in **West Yellowstone**, -19 degrees F in **Butte**, -15 degrees F in **Jordan**, -12 degrees F in **Havre**, and -10 degrees F in **Great Falls**. Temperatures plunged to 0 degrees F or lower as far east as the **upper Midwest**, where daily-record lows were established in locations such as **Aberdeen, SD** (-6 degrees F on November 5), and **Grand Forks, ND** (-9 and -13 degrees F on November 7-8). Many other records were established in the **Northwest**, where stations breaking multiple daily standards included **Stanley, ID** (-15, -9, and -8 degrees F from November 5-7), and **Seattle, WA** (29, 30, 31, and 30 degrees F from November 3-6).

Unusually mild weather prevailed across **mainland Alaska**, where weekly temperatures ranged from 14 to 24 degrees F above normal. During the first 7 days of the month, **Fairbanks'** average minimum temperature (28.3 degrees F) was its highest on record during any 7-day period in November, surpassing the standard of 26.6 degrees F set from November 6-12, 1979. Numerous daily-record highs were established across **Alaska**, including three in a row in **Kotzebue** (37, 40, and 37 degrees F from November 4-6). Widespread precipitation accompanied the warmth, except across **southeastern Alaska**, where mostly dry weather and near-normal temperatures prevailed. During the first 9 days of November, rainfall of 0.08 inch (2 percent of normal) on **Annette Island** contrasted with precipitation totals of 2.00 inches (526 percent) in **Bethel** and 1.32 inches (322 percent) in **McGrath**. Meanwhile in **Hawaii**, another uneventful week featured scattered showers and above-normal temperatures. Showers were heaviest in windward areas of the **Big Island** during the early- to midweek period and on **Kauai** toward week's end. On November 3-4, 24-hour totals on the **Big Island** included 1.76 inches in **Glenwood** and 1.64 inches in **Mountain View**. Later in the week, **Honolulu, Oahu** (89 degrees F on November 7), posted a daily-record high.

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Highlights: Average temperatures for the week were well below normal in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, northern and central Great Plains, and western Corn Belt. Most of North Dakota remained below freezing throughout the week. Large areas of the northern Rocky Mountains had no snow cover to protect emerging winter wheat from the frigid temperatures. Meanwhile, temperatures were well above normal across the Southeast up through the middle Atlantic Coast States, setting daily record highs in some locations. Precipitation was heavy in the middle Mississippi Valley and adjacent areas of the Great Lakes. In the eastern Corn Belt, mostly dry weather prevailed. The Great Plains was mostly dry, but some areas received light to moderate rainfall. The Southwest and Pacific Northwest also had little precipitation, though northern California and southwestern Oregon had some moderate rainfall. Conditions were generally favorable for fieldwork across the Mississippi Delta and Southeast. Precipitation was moderate through the southern and central Appalachians and light across the Northeast.

Corn: Ninety-one percent of the acreage was harvested, 6 percentage points above last year but the same as the 5-year average. Harvest progressed rapidly in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, as producers took advantage of mostly dry weather. However, the region remained well behind normal, with producers nearly 2 weeks behind in Michigan, where heavy rainfall was not conducive to harvest activities. Growers in North Carolina and Texas completed harvest of their crops, while producers in the western Corn Belt and Great plains approached completion.

Soybeans: Acreage harvested advanced to 95 percent, 5 percentage points ahead of a year ago and 1 point ahead of normal. Harvest progressed well in Kentucky and North Carolina, where 17 and 13 percent of the crop was harvested during the week, respectively. Producers in the Corn Belt and Mississippi Delta edged closer to completion.

Winter Wheat: Planting was 95 percent complete, compared with 92 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Eighty-four percent of the crop was emerged, 1 percentage point behind a year ago but 3 points ahead of normal. Planting steadily advanced in Arkansas, Missouri, and North Carolina. Elsewhere, progress was ahead of normal with most States at or near completion. Emergence progressed rapidly across the Corn Belt, where the crop advanced by 23 points in Illinois, 20 points in Ohio, and 14 or more points in all other States.

Cotton: Harvest advanced to 64 percent complete, 8 percentage points above last year but 8 points below normal. Despite steady progress nationwide, harvest remained over 1 week behind normal. Most States were over 1 week behind, and South Carolina and Tennessee were over 2 weeks behind. However, Louisiana and Mississippi were 6 points ahead of normal, as producers had nearly completed their harvest.

Sorghum: The crop was 93 percent mature, compared with 98 percent a year ago and 99 percent for the average. Seventy-nine percent of the crop was harvested, 3 percentage points ahead of last year but 11 points behind normal. Maturation of the crop continued well behind normal in Kansas and Texas. In New Mexico, the crop developed rapidly with 26 percent of the crop reaching maturity during the week. Harvest was over 2 weeks behind normal nationwide, with Texas producers trailing their normal pace by 6 weeks and Kansas producers 2 weeks behind. Growers in Colorado and Illinois progressed the most, harvesting 16 and 17 percent of their crop during the week, respectively.

Peanuts: Harvest advanced to 91 percent complete, 11 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Texas producers harvested 20 percent of their crop during the week and pulled ahead of their normal pace. Virginia growers completed their harvest and harvest neared completion across the Southeast, with Florida growers at 99 percent complete and Alabama and Georgia producers at 97 percent.

Other Crops: Ninety-seven percent of the sunflower crop was harvested, compared with 75 percent a year ago and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest neared completion in the Dakotas, ahead of average. Colorado growers remained well ahead of the normal harvest pace but Kansas producers remained slightly behind normal.

**Corn: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	97	86	69	84
IL	95	90	94	95
IN	83	68	88	91
IA	96	91	87	93
KS	99	97	96	98
KY	97	95	99	99
MI	51	44	87	78
MN	99	97	84	93
MO	96	94	97	95
NE	90	82	73	88
NC	100	99	86	96
ND	98	95	83	89
OH	74	53	84	83
PA	68	49	84	74
SD	94	87	67	83
TN	99	99	99	100
TX	100	99	100	100
WI	79	70	57	77
18 Sts	91	85	85	91

¹ These 18 States harvested 94% of last year's corn acreage.

**Soybeans: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	85	77	64	84
IL	98	95	97	97
IN	97	93	96	97
IA	100	100	99	99
KS	85	77	83	93
KY	85	68	69	87
LA	98	92	69	93
MI	97	94	99	93
MN	99	99	96	98
MS	99	97	81	94
MO	88	77	86	91
NE	99	98	92	97
NC	30	17	17	38
ND	100	100	98	99
OH	96	93	95	96
SD	100	100	94	97
TN	70	61	54	78
WI	99	96	87	95
18 Sts	95	91	90	94

¹ These 18 States harvested 96% of last year's soybean acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	85	72	52	73
CA	30	25	44	37
CO	100	100	100	100
ID	100	100	100	99
IL	98	94	98	97
IN	99	94	97	98
KS	99	96	97	97
MI	100	97	100	99
MO	90	79	87	87
MT	100	99	100	99
NE	100	100	100	100
NC	56	42	30	49
OH	100	94	100	99
OK	98	96	94	89
OR	92	83	84	93
SD	100	100	100	100
TX	91	89	88	87
WA	100	100	100	100
18 Sts	95	92	92	92

¹ These 18 States planted 90% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	68	52	41	51
CA	12	10	28	18
CO	93	90	100	98
ID	79	73	74	82
IL	87	64	92	88
IN	90	74	88	87
KS	88	84	90	90
MI	92	78	89	90
MO	74	59	71	67
MT	86	84	88	85
NE	100	98	100	100
NC	33	23	24	30
OH	94	74	93	92
OK	90	86	90	78
OR	60	49	36	64
SD	85	81	96	91
TX	77	74	80	70
WA	96	91	93	96
18 Sts	84	79	85	81

¹ These 18 States planted 90% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

**Sorghum: Percent Mature,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	100	100	99	100
CO	100	100	100	100
IL	100	100	100	100
KS	95	93	99	100
LA	100	100	100	100
MO	100	99	100	100
NE	100	100	100	100
NM	91	65	100	97
OK	94	90	93	97
SD	100	100	100	100
TX	88	84	96	99
11 Sts	93	91	98	99

¹ These 11 States planted 97% of last year's sorghum acreage.

**Sorghum: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	100	100	100	100
CO	84	68	77	77
IL	88	71	96	95
KS	79	69	67	91
LA	100	100	100	100
MO	93	84	94	95
NE	93	85	82	92
NM	35	27	37	52
OK	79	70	80	83
SD	97	96	86	90
TX	73	70	81	89
11 Sts	79	72	76	90

¹ These 11 States harvested 97% of last year's sorghum acreage.

**Cotton: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	77	67	53	76
AZ	53	45	67	64
AR	85	75	69	91
CA	75	65	92	75
GA	57	48	56	67
LA	99	98	68	93
MS	97	92	64	91
MO	79	70	72	91
NC	47	34	55	64
OK	56	50	42	65
SC	48	37	50	67
TN	71	59	64	89
TX	49	39	44	60
VA	48	40	75	69
14 Sts	64	55	56	72

¹ These 14 States harvested 98% of last year's cotton acreage.

**Peanuts: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	97	94	87	92
FL	99	98	97	98
GA	97	92	91	96
NC	94	88	86	89
OK	94	88	78	85
TX	68	48	44	64
VA	100	96	97	99
7 Sts	91	83	80	88

¹ These 7 States harvested 98% of last year's peanut acreage.

**Sunflowers: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1998- 2002 Avg.
	Nov 9, 2003	Nov 2, 2003	Nov 9, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	93	82	70	72
KS	89	83	75	92
ND	98	96	73	86
SD	96	90	84	91
4 Sts	97	93	75	87

¹ These 4 States harvested 91% of last year's sunflowers acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Crop Condition
by Percent, Selected States**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	1	3	28	56	12
CA	0	0	10	85	5
CO	10	22	33	31	4
ID	0	5	28	65	2
IL	0	0	17	67	16
IN	1	2	19	67	11
KS	3	15	28	47	7
MI	0	1	22	69	8
MO	0	0	26	67	7
MT	6	22	52	20	0
NE	4	12	33	44	7
NC	0	0	20	77	3
OH	1	3	20	60	16
OK	8	12	27	44	9
OR	0	29	51	19	1
SD	12	18	38	29	3
TX	16	17	37	27	3
WA	3	7	59	31	0
18 Sts	6	13	32	43	6
Prev Wk	6	13	32	41	8
Prev Yr	2	5	31	50	12

VP-Very Poor, P-Poor, F-Fair, G-Good, EX-Excellent.

National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2002 planted acres.

Crop Progress and Condition Survey and Estimating Procedures

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data that are collected each week from early April to the end of November. The Crop progress and condition surveys are non-probability surveys that include a sample of more than 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate progress of farmers' activities and progress of crops through their stages of development. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaire on Friday or early Monday morning and submit it to the Agricultural Statistics Service's office in their State by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of the time that the questionnaire is completed, reporters are asked to report for the week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced into the projections for weekend progress and crop condition changes. By the end of the 2001 season, nearly two-thirds of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, about one-half of all data are submitted on Monday morning, which has significantly reduced this projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories that are used as reporting guidelines are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) website at: www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/cwterms.htm.

Estimating Procedures: Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Statistical Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

Revision Policy: Progress and condition estimates in the "Crop Progress" report are released after 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin" National Summary that is released after 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are then subject to revision the following week.

The next "*Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*" report will be released after 12 p.m. ET on November 18, 2003.

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